

UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION

of

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for

A MOTOR VEHICLE DATA COMMUNICATION NETWORK

1005208-120401

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to the transmission of data between data networks over a wireless link, and in particular to the transmission of data between a MOST network and a wireless device.

10 A MOST (media oriented systems transport or media oriented synchronous transfer) network is commonly implemented in multimedia systems installed for example in modern state-of-the-art vehicles. One conventional approach to a local network in a vehicle is disclosed in German Patent Specification DE 195 03 213 C1. Such motor vehicles can include, for example, passenger cars, trucks, buses and other types of vehicles. A MOST network has, for example, a ring structure that communicably links several units that serve as data sources or data sinks. Such network devices include units such as for example, a radio receiver, a television receiver, a
15 monitor, a CD player, a CD changer, a DVD player, a DVD changer, a cassette recorder, active loudspeakers, a navigation system, a car telephone, a wireless telephone, and operating and control units, among others.

There is a need for a MOST network that is capable of transmitting data to an external receiver and receiving data from an external transmitter over a wireless communication channel.

20 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Briefly, according to an aspect of the present invention, a MOST network includes a plurality of units that are arranged on a ring bus. A wireless transceiver interface is connected to

the ring bus, and receives input data from and transmits output data to a wireless device over a wireless communication channel.

The wireless transceiver can be configured and arranged to provide output data in a format compatible with Bluetooth.

5 In one embodiment the wireless device may be associated with a second MOST network, to provide a wireless communication channel between the MOST networks.

10 The interface connected to the MOST network transforms data received from a unit of the MOST network into a standard suitable for transmission over the wireless communication channel, and transforms the data received from the wireless device into a format compatible with the MOST standard.

15 Advantageously, the interface connected to the MOST network transmits data from the MOST network to the external receiver, and receives data from the external transmitter. For example, the interface can transform data in the MOST standard into the Bluetooth, DECT, or other standards, and vice versa. The data transmission between the MOST network and the external receiver or external transmitter is preferably wireless. For example, the external receiver and the external transmitter can be combined in a terminal device (e.g., a personal computer, a cordless telephone, etc.).

20 These and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent in light of the following detailed description of preferred embodiments thereof, as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustration of a first embodiment of the invention; and

FIG. 2 is a block diagram illustration of a second embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

FIG. 1 illustrates a MOST network 10 having a plurality of units 10-14, which are linked by connecting sections 16-20. An interface 22 with an antennae 24 is connected to the MOST network 10. A wireless device 26 includes an external receiver 28 and an external transmitter 30 connected to an antennae 32. Through the two antennas 22 and 32, the MOST network 10 communicates with the wireless device 26 over a wireless communication channel (i.e., a radio connection). The external receiver 28 and the external transmitter 30 can be combined, for example, in a personal computer or a cordless telephone.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram illustration of a second embodiment of the invention, in which the external receiver and the external transmitter are associated with a second MOST network 40. The second MOST network 40 includes a plurality of units 42-46 linked to one another through connecting sections 48-52. An interface 54 with an antenna 56 is connected to the second MOST network 40. Data can be transmitted in both directions between units of the first MOST network 10 and the second MOST network 40 through the two interfaces 22 and 54. As a result, vehicles equipped with the inventive MOST network can communicate with one another. Data are transmitted between the two MOST networks, preferably in wireless mode, for example in the

Bluetooth standard.

Although the present invention has been shown and described with respect to several preferred embodiments thereof, various changes, omissions and additions to the form and detail thereof, may be made therein, without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

5 What is claimed is:

10005203-12040-1